

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00071 081148Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /084 W
-----081152Z 113442 /22

R 081042Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3344
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SU, ET
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN TROOPS TAKE REFUGE IN SUDAN

REF: KHARTOUM 0058

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. ALL SUDANESE MEDIA GIVING PROMINENT COVERAGE TO
CAPTURE BY ERITREAN ELEMENTS OF KARORA, ETHIOPIA/SUDAN
BORDER TOWN ON RED SEA COAST. FLIGHT INTO SUDAN OF 96
ETHIOPIAN OFFICERS AND MEN LED BY CAPTAIN HIGHLIGHTED IN
LOCAL PRESS. BACK PAGE OF SAHAFA JAN 8 IS COMPLETELY
DEVOTED TO PHOTOS OF ETHIOPIAN TROOPS AND WEAPONS BROUGHT
WITH THEM. ACCORDING ALAGAAYAM OF JAN 7, THESE INCLUDE
69 MACHINE GUNS, 5 MEDIUM MACHINE GUNS, 4 BAZOOKAS,
6 REVOLVERS, ONE AUTOMATIC RIFLE AND LARGE QUANTITY AMMUNITION.

2. LEADER OF ETHIOPIAN TROOPS WAS CAPT ABABA CHEIRE, WHOSE
PUTATIVE HAND-WRITTEN MEMORANDUM (DEPOSITION) IN ENGLISH
EXPLAINING EVENTS APPEARS ON FRONT PAGE OF SAHAFA JAN 8.

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ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT, HE ARRIVED IN KARORA O/A JAN 5.
HIS MISSION WAS TO EVACUATE HEAVY WEAPONS AT KARORA GARRISON
AWAY FROM BORDERS. AFTER THIS HE WAS TO RETURN TO ASMARA.
CHEIRE SUCCEEDED IN SENDING HEAVY WEAPONS BUT FOUR
HELICOPTERS WHICH RETURNED TO FINISH JOB DID NOT SUCCEED
IN LANDING BECAUSE OF HEAVY GUERRILLA MACHINE GUN FIRE
FROM NEIGHBORING HIGH GROUND. CHEIRE SAID INSTEAD OF GIVING

UP TO GUERRILLAS WE DECIDED TO ENTER OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR COUNTRY. COMMANDER OF GARRISON AND HIS STAFF TOOK DECISION OF EVACUATING POST AND CHEIRE MADE DECISION TO EVACUATE INJURED.

3. CHEIRE'S STATEMENT NOTES THERE WAS NO RPT NO SHOOTING NOR ANY INJURIES SUSTAINED INSIDE SUDAN. HE SAID RECEPTION WAS FRIENDLY ALTHOUGH, HE ADMITTED, HE WAS NOT EXPECTING IT. CHEIRE ASKED THAT ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR OR MEMBER OF HIS STAFF VISIT HIM. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT FONMIN MAKKAWI SUMMONED ETHIOPIAN CHARGE TO HIS OFFICE TO BRIEF HIM ON INCIDENT. IN STATEMENT TO SUNA MAKKAWI SAID INCIDENT IS EVIDENCE OF SUDAN'S FRIENDSHIP TO ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AND NO ENMITY OR HOSTILITY ARE PLANNED TO BE PERPETRATED AGAINST THEM. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THE AMITY SUDAN BEARS TOWARD ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE IS NEVER RECIPROCATED BY EPMG. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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4. COMMENT: APPEARS GOS MAKING FULL PROPAGANDA USE OF INCIDENT. GOS APPEARS TO BE TRYING TO CONVEY IMAGE OF BEING PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF INCIDENT AND IN SO DOING, WITHOUT EXPLICITLY SAYING SO, HIGHLIGHTING HARSHNESS AND INSENSITIVITY OF EPMG TOWARD ITS OWN PEOPLE. AS OF NOW, NOT CLEAR WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH ETHIOPIAN TROOPS WHO ARE NOT, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, SEEKING ASYLUM FROM EPMG.

BREWER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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